

Mark and Wendy Alexander
[address withheld for privacy]

Date 25 June 2017

We wish to **maintain our privacy in this submission** and request our name be withheld from the list of submitters and that any personal information in our submission and attachments not be published.

We have not made a reportable political donation.

ATTN: Executive Director, Resource Assessments, NSW Department of Planning and Environment

GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

RE: HUME COAL PROJECT — Submission to the EIS. SSD 7172

We have been residents of McArthurs Crossing, between Berrima and Medway, for 25 years on our property *Billarimba*. We own land on both sides of the Wingecarribee River, west of Berrima — a property unique for its mix of native flora and fauna, including many endangered species. On Nov. 4th 2010, we signed a Conservation Agreement to share with the government the responsibility of protecting the land and its plants and animals.

We object to this proposal and believe it should be rejected for its impact on WATER and WILDLIFE.

Drinking Water and Ground Water Threatened

- We and others in the area rely on tank water for our drinking water, which we cannot guarantee will be safe from pollution from the washing, loading and unloading of the coal.
- 93 bores on 71 properties will be affected by water drawdown. The impact on bores will remain for 35 to 65 years after mining ceases. (ES4.1.2)
 - The bore on our property provides water we use for firefighting and growing food.
- Water used to wash coal and residual “spoil”, which will be pumped back underground into mine voids, has the potential to impact groundwater systems. (ES4.1.1)
- We have seen firsthand the impact on groundwater and the Wingecarribee River system of the existing Medway Colliery so we know this irreversible damage is likely.
- The water in this area is part of Sydney Water Catchment and flows into the Sydney Water supply. We have observed several major flooding events in the last five years and during these events it is known there can be no guarantee of a safe drinking water supply.

Rare and Endangered Animals and Plants Threatened

- We are the guardians of an important corridor for animals and signed our agreement in 2010, which we expected you the government to uphold.
- We are Partners in Conservation and depend on the government to honour the Agreement, because it is a legal document.
- The dust and potential water pollution from the mine will gravely affect endangered birds and mammals — they will be wiped out. (Please see the attached list)
 - We included details of the endangered species in our correspondence to Mark Speakman, MP (27th October 2015).

- This poem by poet Lucy Alexander, our daughter, makes clear the animals' reliance on water:

Rain Light

All through the rainy light the sculpt came through
magnified with stretchy glimmer
the stars dripped to earth
corneas each one.

Can you see yourself
broken and clear
letting the light right through yourself
changed by both

the viscose filter and the curve?

[Source: <https://poemation.wordpress.com/2017/06/07/rain-light/>]

We urge the government to reject this project.

Signed,

Mark Alexander and Wendy Alexander